

REPORT ON THE PLAN OF MAIN THOROUGHFARES FOR HAMILTON COUNTY OHIO NINETEEN THIRTY - SIX

Foreward

IN the year 1917, civic-minded citizens of Hamilton County, realizing the lack of concerted action in controlling the physical development of this metropolitan district, and the urgent necessity for wise planning to guide future growth, formed an organization known as the United City Planning Committee.

Subsequently, in the year 1918, the Cincinnati City Planning Commission was appointed under the provisions of the Statutes of Ohio. This Commission, with funds raised through private subscriptions, immediately proceeded to employ planning consultants and to prepare a comprehensive city plan for Cincinnati, including suggestions for a regional plan, with the result that an Official City Plan was adopted by the Commission and published in 1925. A zoning ordinance to control the use of land and regulate the use, height and area of buildings had been previously approved by the Commission and was adopted by Council on April 1, 1924.

The above named group was subsequently reorganized under the name of the United City and Regional Planning Committee, and, official planning commissions having been appointed through its efforts in various municipalities in Hamilton County, on March 21, 1929, the Regional Planning Commission was formally organized under Section 4366-13 of the Ohio General Code. This Commission is composed of representatives of the Board of County Commissioners and those of the official planning commissions of seventeen separate municipalities in Hamilton County. The "region" agreed upon is Hamilton County and the Commission is supported through public funds allowed on a budget submitted to the County Commissioners.

The powers, duties and functions of the Commission are to make plans and maps of the region showing the Commission's recommendations for transportation systems, highways, park and recreation facilities, water supply, sewerage, sewage and garbage disposal, civic centers and other public improvements; to adopt platting rules and exercise subdivision control in the unincorporated area of the region; to collect and analyze data in order to determine the existing physical characteristics and the future requirements of Hamilton County, and to evolve and recommend the systematic carrying out of a Master Plan to serve as a guide in coordinating public improvements undertaken by the various political subdivisions of the county.

One of the principal activities of the Regional Planning Commission has been the preparation of uniform rules and regulations for the control of land subdivision throughout the county. These rules and regulations have been adopted and are now being enforced by the Commission under Section 3586-2 of the Ohio General Code.

The first report of the Commission published in 1931 shows its activities up to that time. Since then, many more detailed studies and investigations have been made and the Commission now offers a report of a Plan of Main Thoroughfares, including not only the plan itself, but explanations of various studies made incident to the preparation thereof.

The Regional Planning Commission has proved its value through its studies of pending improvements and recommendations to public officials. Proper regional planning involves not only a close study of existing conditions, but a long look into the future, and through the physical, social and economic benefits effected, amply justifies its adoption in any community. The Commission invites the cooperation and support of the citizens of the county in encouraging a higher type of community development through the continuance of planning for future orderly growth.

Charles H. Urban
Chairman